D.1936 (27.)

AN

# EPISTLE

TO

# FRIENDS

IN

# England,

To be Read in their ASSEMBLIES in the Fear of the *LORD*.

By your Friend in the Truth, *Elizabeth Hendericks*.

Printed in the Year, 1672.

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# AN EPISTLE TO Friends, &c.

*FRIENDS,*

YOU unto whom the Lord hath appeared in this his day, in his eternal, inexpreſſible Love, and hath given you the knowledge of his Truth, and ſtreched out unto you the Arm of his Power, and made known unto you the Way of Salvation: You it is, whom my endeared and unfeighned Love is flowing forth unto, which doth not conſiſt in any thing that's viſible but in that pure unchangable Love of God which he hath ſhed abroad in our hearts. And ſo in that, you are often preſented before me, and often do I remember you with a deep ſence of your conditions, and of the unſpeakable Love of God to you-wards, and withall, of the manifold Temptations and Trialls you daily come to meet withal; and then is my heart poured out before the Lord with breathings and ſupplications, that you may perſevere in faithfullneſs and ſtedfaſtneſs, and that you may be preſerved in and through them all; and there is a certain aſſureance in my heart, that the Lord will do it unto all thoſe that abide in the Faith, waiting upon him continually in his Light; and that he will not leave them, nor permit to come upon them beyond their abillity, nor yet more then will tend to their good.

So dear *Friends*, keep close to the Light, and feel the Power of God, and abide in it, and let it be your daily care to remain in the Awe and Fear of God continually; that so you may come more and more to feel the leadings and guidings of the Lord in his Light, and that you wait at all times to know his Will and Counsel, and to feel his leadings therein: That so none may run before the Lord his Leader, but to feel Him go before, and to lead in the Way you should walk in, and in those things that concerns the Truth of God; that so you may still be preserved in that, in which the Peace of God truly comes to be felt. For *Friends*, This is a thing of great weight, and far surpasses all that is visible and transitory, so that you all may be kept waiting continually in the Light, upon the Lord, to feel the Power and Virtue of it daily and to enjoy it, and that you may come to dwell in it in steadfastness without wavering: And this is that for which my labour is, and for which my desire often times with deep Sighings and Breathings to the Lord is, that you may be kept and preserved in those dark places of the earth, where you have your Callings, and that you may be an Honour and Praise to him in your Generation, and that you may be refreshed and consolated by his Living Presence more and more.

Oh *Friends*! How pretious is it to feel the presence of God unto Refreshment and Consolation, but his presence is terrible unto those that are found in Iniquity and Unfaithfulness. Therefore *Dear Friends*, take heed of all that, that would draw you out from the constant and diligent watching in the Light, and to have a strict regard thereunto; and of that Spirit that would run out into visions and openings of the Truth, before the Leader; for that is that which is Impatient, Rash, Hasty and Unstable; and so that cannot hold out long but is soon weary, and quickly offended and troubled, when things doth not allwayes fall out according to that mind; and so there is no perfect satisfaction, but it is wearying it self, now in this, and then in the other thing, and this cannot stand in the day of trial. But *Friends*, Dwell low in the feeling of the pure measure of God, and feel the Spirit of the *Lamb* that bears and suffers, and hold fast the Faith in the Light, and cleave unto it with your whole hearts, that patience may possess your Souls, that so you may feel the plentious peace and satisfaction therein. And *Friends*, Take heed of many consultations and thoughts, concerning things which you cannot see through nor

comprehend,

comprehend, for if that gets place in the heart, that brings a burthen upon the mind, that darkens and vails, and greives the Righteous Seed of God, but in all things be carefal that your minds may be kept continually out of all such things, in that that opens the understanding, and makes the heart tender; for that is that which must preserve in that state. And so *Dear Friends*, there is an enemy near, against whom it is greatly needful to watch continually, that so the mind may be kept Single, Pure and Clean; and so that you may feel more and more these things, and to enjoy the Comfort and Consolation in your selves, when the mind is kept single and clean of all Incumbrances, and Reasonings, and Consultations about things which you cannot discern nor understand, and leave it to the Lord who is onely Wise, and knows every ones Condition, Sate, and Capacity; who watcheth over his own, as a Father doth over his Children, teaching and instructing every one according to their growth and abillity, of those things that are his Will concerning them. And *Friends*, Take heed of that Spirit that still will seek to excuse himself, and to diminish and hide that which is not well, and to lay the charge and fault upon another, to clear himself by so doing; this is the Spirit of the world, and is out of Truth, and by the Truth, the Light of God it is condemned. This is he that appeared in *Adam* and *Eve* in the begining after the Fall: And so *Friends*, You who are called to come out of the Fall, let nothing that is of that spirit and nature be cherished nor regarded, but that all may be judged in the Light, which is springing forth of that Ground, the cursed Ground in which the Thorns and Briars, and the Weeds growes, and let the Fire consume it: So *Dear Friends*, keep nothing back, nor excuse nothing, nor diminish it not, that cannot stand in the Light and Truth of God, but is Condemned and must be so for ever.

And *Friends*, Take heed of that, which when there is any thing done or spoken as in a sence of Truth, that will to much be seen and lookt upon in it, and boast in it; this is that which seeks self, and not the honour of God; but give you no place to that, for that will run when the Lord sends not, and will be doing of that which the Lord requireth not; so there ought to be a continual watch against that: And you still abiding in the true sence and feeling, you come still to feel what the Lord requires, and what he leads you unto; and so there Consolation and Peace is felt,

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and this doth not lift up but keeps low and ſenſible of the goodneſs of God, and that breaks and tenders the heart, and overcomes it.

And ſo this is that which every one ought to wait for in himſelf, to feel it, that ſo you may be as obedient Children, that are minding the inſtructions and directions of the Father continually. And *Friends*, Watch againſt that which would be ſtriving to comprehend, and know, and underſtand much, before it be the Lords time and pleaſure; for that is the ſame Spirit that is in the World, but wait low in the feeling of the Light and the Power, and dwell in it; that ſo what you know and underſtand of the Truth, and the things of it you may know in the Light, by the Revelation of the Lord therein: And this is that which is laſting, though never ſo little; and though ſuch be as little Children, that as it were know nothing at all, yet it is pretious to keep in that ſtate, and not to run, not to be buſie, not to will, but to be quietly waiting upon the Lord, to feel his Power, to feel his Arm, to preſerve and to lead, and to know him to be the Guide and Leader, who leads gently the little ones, and bears the Sucklings in his Arms, and keeps and preſerves them from that which would bruiſe and hurt them.

So *Dear Friends*, Your Strength, your Preſervation and Salvation is in the Lord, and therefore keep your ſelves cloſe to his Light, and imbrace it with a perfect heart, and cleave unto it with your whole ſtrength, and let it not go, neither let any thing have place in your hearts that is againſt it; and where there is any thing yet remaining in the heart, which is felt not to be in unity with it, give your ſelves no reſt, till you feel the Judgement of God ſet a top over it in your hearts, and then let it be freely reſigned up unto the Judgement, that ſo, not an enemy to the Truth and to your own Soules, may be left alive in the houſe.

So *Dear Friends*, This is in true Love unto you, from one who hath experience of theſe things concerning which I have wrot unto you, as in a weighty ſence that hath been upon my heart for a conſiderable time, and I could not well forbear longer, but muſt communicate it unto you, in a freſh and living ſence of the Love of God, and of Love unfeigned; which often floweth forth to youwards, as an overflowing ſtream, who are called of the Lord, and to whom the Lord hath ſtretched forth his Arm of Mercy and

Love.

Love. Oh *Friends*! Dwell in that which preſerves Love and Unity amongſt the Children of the houſhould of God, that ſo there may be no place amongſt you for diſcord, or any thing of that nature; neither let any thoughts enter the heart, which you dare not declare in words, for is it ſuch as that you dare not make it known? Then they are things that ought to have no place in the heart, though many times ſuch things may preſent themſelves in the thoughts, but it ought to have no place, for it will hurt, though it may appear with ſome ſhew of Truth or Good in it, or of a good tendency, but the end is ſeen in the Light, that it doth not proceed out of the Light: And ſo *Friends*, waiting in the Light, you will daily more and more, come to ſee the ſubtil workings of the enemy in the heart, which is the deſire of my Soul, and that you may be preſerved and kept out of his Snares.

So *Friends*, I have no other thing to which I can commit you, but to the Lord, who is able to preſerve you and to keep you out of all the cunning devices of Sathan; yea, and I am perſwaded that he will do it, to all thoſe that perſeveres in the Faith, in his Light, in faithfulneſs, ſtedfaſt unto the end; ſo that you all may be preſerved and eſtabliſhed in the everlaſting Truth, and may endure to the end, that ſo none having put his hand to the Plough may look back, that is the earneſt longing and deſire of my heart.

So the Lord God of Power, who alone is our Strength, Power and Refuge, eſtabliſh your minds more and more in his Light, and your hearts more and more in the Faith, and continually to wait upon him in his Light, and to confirme your confidence in him; that ſo, *you may run and not be weary, and walk on and faint not*: That ſo Peace, Reſt, Comfort and Conſolation may be multiplyed amongſt you from the Lord. To whom be Glory, and Honour, and Praiſes, for ever.

*From your true Friend in the Truth,*

*Amſterdam*, the 19th. of the 6th. Moneth, 1672.

Elizabeth Hendericks.

THE END.